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Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services under Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Amendment

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General Comment

Religious organizations should not be allowed to deny coverage for contraception as a preventive medicine for staff in their education or charitable social services. When such organizations engage in these activities, they essentially receive government support through exemption from taxation. However, much of these activities are public services, and the staff engaged in them do not necessarily observe the organization's religious practices. In fact, the organization already cannot legally terminate staff involved with the public services just for holding alternative religious beliefs. Likewise, the organization should not be allowed to coerce employees who perform a public service to follow the organization's religious practices by denying them health coverage that is available to workers in other sectors.